

**108**  
**Greatest Of All Times**



**Globally selected  
Personalities**

**"OUR CHILDREN MAY LEARN ABOUT  
HEROES OF THE PAST. OUR TASK IS TO  
MAKE OURSELVES ARCHITECTS OF THE  
FUTURE."**



**Jomo Kenyatta**

**c. 1897 <::><::><::> 22 Aug 1978**

**ISBN:978-81-981942-4-4**

Compiled by:  
**Prof Dr S Ramalingam**



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C. 1897



22 Aug 1978

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jomo\\_Kenyatta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jomo_Kenyatta)

The Right Honourable

**Jomo Kenyatta**

CGH



Kenyatta in 1966

**1st President of Kenya**

**In office**

12 December 1964 – 22 August 1978

**Vice  
President**

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga

Joseph Murumbi

Daniel arap Moi

**Preceded  
by**

Elizabeth II as Queen of Kenya

**Succeeded  
by**

Daniel arap Moi

**Prime Minister of Kenya**

**In office**

1 June 1963 – 12 December 1964

**Monarch**

Elizabeth II

**Succeeded  
by**

Raila Odinga (2008)

**Chairman of the Kenya African National Union (KANU)**

<div>In office</div> <div>1961–1978</div>	
Preceded by	<a href="#">James Gichuru</a>
Succeeded by	<a href="#">Daniel arap Moi</a>
<div>Member of Parliament for <a href="#">Gatundu</a></div>	
<div>In office</div> <div>1963–1978</div>	
Preceded by	<i>Constituency established</i>
Succeeded by	Ngengi Wa Muigai
<div>Personal details</div>	
Born	<div>Kamau wa Muigai</div> <div>c. 1897</div> <div><a href="#">Ngenda</a>, <a href="#">British East Africa</a></div>
Died	<div>22 August 1978 (aged 80–81)</div> <div><a href="#">Mombasa</a>, <a href="#">Coast Province</a>, <a href="#">Kenya</a></div>
Resting place	<a href="#">Parliament Buildings</a> , <a href="#">Nairobi</a> , Kenya
Nationality	Kenyan
Political party	<a href="#">KANU</a>
Spouse(s)	<div><a href="#">Grace Wahu</a> (m. 1919)</div> <div>Edna Clarke (1942–1946)</div> <div>Grace Wanjiku (d. 1950)</div> <div><a href="#">Ngina Kenyatta</a></div> <div>(m. 1951)</div>
Children	<div>8,</div> <div>including <a href="#">Margaret</a>, <a href="#">Uhuru</a>, <a href="#">Nyokabi</a> and <a href="#">Muhoho</a></div>
<b><a href="#">Alma mater</a></b>	<div><a href="#">University College London</a></div> <div><a href="#">London School of Economics</a></div>
Notable work(s)	<a href="#">Facing Mount Kenya</a>
Signature	



**Jomo Kenyatta** [CGH](#) (c. 1897 – 22 August 1978) was a Kenyan anti-[colonial](#) activist and politician who governed [Kenya](#) as its [Prime Minister](#) from 1963 to 1964 and then as its first [President](#) from 1964 to his death in 1978. He played a significant role in the transformation of Kenya from [a colony](#) of the [British Empire](#) into an independent republic. Ideologically an [African nationalist](#) and a [conservative](#), he led the [Kenya African National Union](#) (KANU) party from 1961 until his death.

Kenyatta was born to [Kikuyu](#) farmers in [Kiambu](#), [British East Africa](#). Educated at a [mission school](#), he worked in various jobs before becoming politically engaged through the [Kikuyu Central Association](#). In 1929, he travelled to [London](#) to lobby for Kikuyu land affairs. During the 1930s, he studied at [Moscow's Communist University of the Toilers of the East](#), [University College London](#), and the [London School of Economics](#). In 1938, he published [an anthropological study of Kikuyu life](#) before working as a [farm labourer](#) in [Sussex](#) during the [Second World War](#). Influenced by his friend [George Padmore](#), he embraced anti-colonialist and [Pan-African](#) ideas, co-organising the 1945 [Pan-African Congress](#) in [Manchester](#). He returned to Kenya in 1946 and became a school principal. In 1947, he was elected President of the [Kenya African Union](#), through which he lobbied for independence from British colonial rule, attracting widespread indigenous support but animosity from [white settlers](#). In 1952, he was among the [Kapenguria Six](#) arrested and charged with masterminding the anti-colonial [Mau Mau Uprising](#). Although protesting his innocence—a view shared by later historians—he was convicted. He remained imprisoned at [Lokitaung](#) until 1959 and was then exiled to [Lodwar](#) until 1961.

On his release, Kenyatta became President of KANU and led the party to victory in the [1963 general election](#). As Prime Minister, he oversaw the transition of the [Kenya Colony](#) into an independent republic, of which he became president in 1964. Desiring a [one-party state](#), he transferred regional powers to his central government, suppressed political dissent, and prohibited KANU's only rival—[Oginga Odinga's](#) leftist [Kenya People's Union](#)—from competing in elections. He promoted reconciliation between the country's indigenous ethnic groups and its European minority, although his relations with the [Kenyan Indians](#) were strained and Kenya's army clashed with [Somali separatists](#) in the [North Eastern Province](#) during the [Shifta War](#). His government pursued [capitalist](#) economic policies and the "Africanisation" of the economy, prohibiting non-citizens from controlling key industries. Education and healthcare were expanded, while UK-funded land redistribution favoured KANU loyalists and exacerbated ethnic tensions. Under Kenyatta, Kenya joined the [Organisation of African Unity](#) and the [Commonwealth of Nations](#), espousing a pro-[Western](#) and [anti-communist](#) foreign policy amid the [Cold War](#). Kenyatta died in office and was succeeded by [Daniel arap Moi](#). Kenyatta's son [Uhuru](#) later also became president.

Kenyatta was a controversial figure. Prior to Kenyan independence, many of its white settlers regarded him as an agitator and malcontent, although across Africa he gained widespread respect as an anti-colonialist. During his presidency, he was given the honorary title of **Mzee** and lauded as the [Father of the Nation](#), securing support from both the black majority and the white minority with his message of reconciliation. Conversely, his rule was criticised as dictatorial, [authoritarian](#), and [neocolonial](#), of

favouring Kikuyu over other ethnic groups, and of facilitating the growth of widespread [corruption](#).

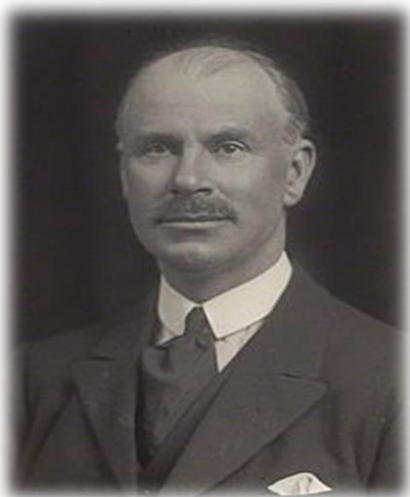
(☺)(☺)@\*\*@(☺)(☺)



A traditional Kikuyu house, similar to that in which Kenyatta would have lived in Ngenda



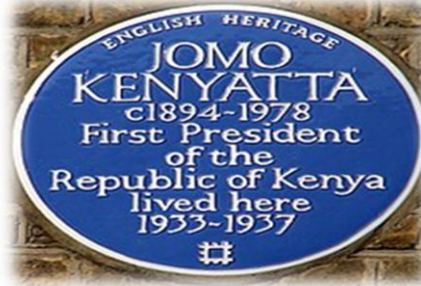
(l-r) Jomo Kenyatta, Apa Pant, and Achieng Oneko



Kenyatta lobbied against many of the actions of Edward Grigg, Governor of Kenya. Grigg tried to suppress many of Kenyatta's activities



Kenyatta became close friends with the last British Governor of Kenya, Malcolm MacDonald, who helped speed the process of independence.



95 Cambridge Street, London, where Kenyatta resided for much of his time in London; it is now marked by a [blue plaque](#).





Kenyatta at an agricultural show in 1968



Kenyatta with Malawian President Hastings Banda



The University of Nairobi, Kenya's first institution of higher education, was established under Kenyatta's administration.



Kenyatta meets an American delegation from the Congress of Racial Equality, including Roy Innis.



Jomo Kenyatta and his son meet the President of West Germany Heinrich Lübke in 1966.



Kenyatta at the Eldoret Agricultural Show, 1968



Kenyatta in the last year of his life.



A statue of Kenyatta (1971) by James Butler was erected at the KICC in Nairobi.

# Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

<https://www.jkuat.ac.ke/>

Since its founding in 1981, JKUAT has been preparing high school students with an education for a lifetime.

## Our Vision

A University of global excellence in Training, Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development.

## Our Mission

To offer accessible, quality and transformative training, research, innovation and entrepreneurship in order to produce leaders in the fields of Agriculture, Engineering, Technology, Built Environment, Enterprise Development, Law, and the Social, Health, Pure and Applied Sciences, to suit the needs of a dynamic world.

## Our Motto

Setting Trends in Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.



# Jomo Kenyatta International Airport


[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jomo\\_Kenyatta\\_International\\_Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jomo_Kenyatta_International_Airport)

## Jomo Kenyatta International Airport



- [IATA](#): NBO . [ICAO](#): HKJK . [WMO](#): 63740

### Summary


Airport type	Public
Operator	<a href="#">Kenya Airports Authority</a>
Serves	<a href="#">Nairobi Metropolitan Region</a>
Location	<a href="#">Embakasi</a> , Nairobi, Kenya
Opened	9 March 1958; 66 years ago
<a href="#">Hub</a> for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Kenya Airways</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Jambojet</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Fly540</a></li><li>• <a href="#">African Express Airways</a></li></ul>
Elevation <a href="#">AMSL</a>	1,624 m / 5,330 ft
<a href="#">Coordinates</a>	 <span><span><span><span><span>01°19′07″S</span> <span>36°55′33″E</span></span></span></span></span>
Website	<a href="http://kaa.go.ke">kaa.go.ke</a>

### Map



NBO



Location within Kenya			
			
Wikimedia   © OpenStreetMap			
Runways			
Direction	Length		Surface
	m	ft	
06/24	4,117	13,507	<a href="#">Asphalt</a>
Statistics (2020)			
Passengers	984,769		
Aircraft Movements	2,000		
Economic Impact	0.01% of GDP (\$781 Million / KES 1.8 Billion)		

**Jomo Kenyatta International Airport** ([IATA: NBO](#), [ICAO: HKJK](#)) is an [international airport](#) serving [Nairobi](#), the capital and largest city of [Kenya](#). The other three important international airports in Kenya include [Kisumu International Airport](#), [Moi International Airport](#) and [Eldoret International Airport](#). Located in the [Embakasi](#) suburb 18 kilometres (11 mi) southeast of Nairobi's central business district, the airport has scheduled flights to destinations in over 50 countries. Originally named **Embakasi Airport**, the airport's name was changed in 1978 to honour [Jomo Kenyatta](#), Kenya's [first President](#) and [Prime Minister](#). The airport served over 7 million passengers in 2016, making it the seventh busiest airport in passenger traffic on the continent.

The postal code for Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) is 00501.

**Video** [7:25]

## **Jomo Kenyatta**

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/video/jomo-kenyatta-biography-facts.html>

### **Short Summary**

Let's now take a moment or two to review. As we learned, Jomo Kenyatta, who lived from the 1890s to 1978, was the first prime minister of independent Kenya from 1963 to 1964 and its first president from 1964 to 1978. Born in a small village of the Kikuyu people, he found a larger world first in the Church of Scotland mission and later in the city of Nairobi, where he adopted the name Kenyatta, the Kikuyu term for a belt he wore. While he was in Nairobi, he was also introduced to the East Africa Association, a protest movement against the white European government that had recently formally transformed Kenya into a British colony and seized a great amount of Kikuyu lands. As we saw, this would mark him for the rest of his life.

### **Faces of Africa: Jomo Kenyatta**

### **The Founding Father of Kenya**

#### **Kindly watch these Videos**

**01]** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxkxhlfwKkA> [28:03]

Many institutions bear his name. He upgraded the economic status of the country after independence. But his reign faced dark shadows when three prominent politicians were assassinated. He is accused of acquiring massive pieces of land.

He is Jomo Kenyatta, the first president of Kenya.

**02]** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6qupBIs9CE&t=14s> [43:17]

# Jomo Kenyatta

Volume 233: debated on Wednesday 26 July 1961

## Debate in UK Parliament House of Lords

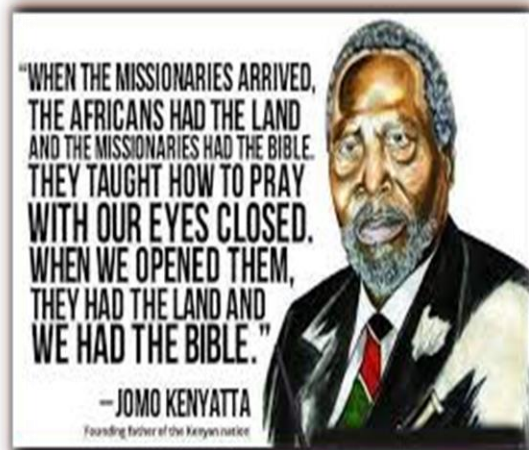
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/1961-07-26/debates/d92bfb9c-0b86-4287-b143-b643a63d1f5f/JomoKenyatta>

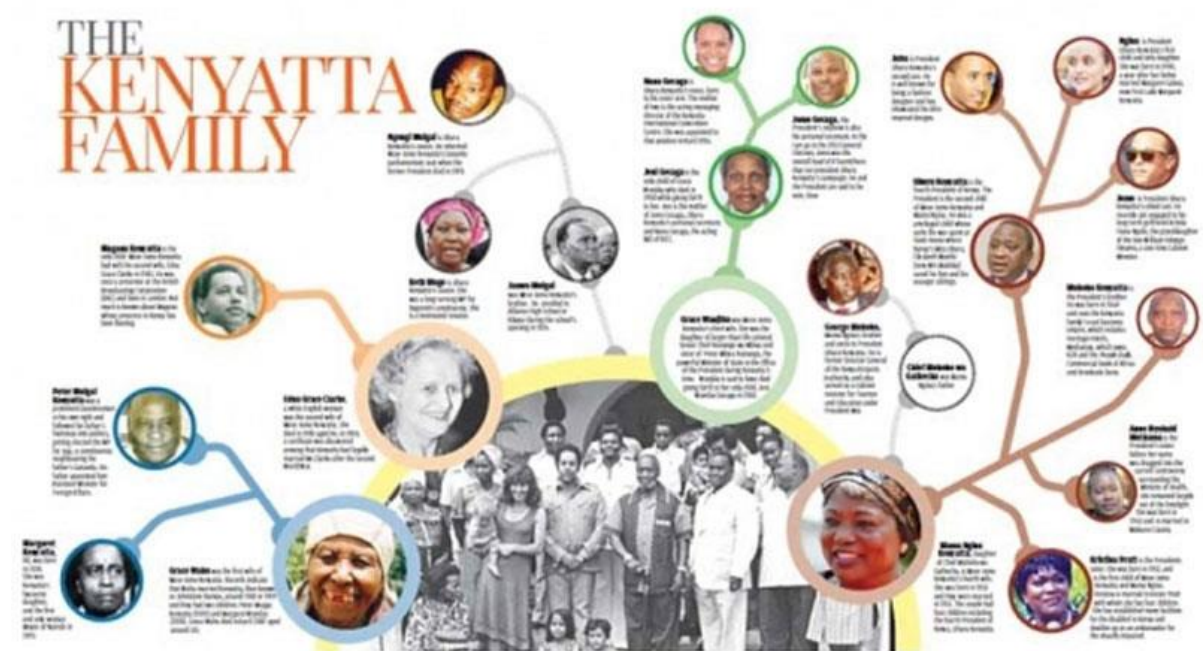
26 Jul 1961

# Jomo Kenyatta

Kindly visit these Web Links to see more than 1500 Photos

<https://www.gettyimages.in/search/2/image?phrase=jomo+kenyatta>  
<https://artsandculture.google.com/entity/jomo-kenyatta/m016zr6?hl=en>





## The Kenyatta family lineage

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# Presidency of Jomo Kenyatta

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidency\\_of\\_Jomo\\_Kenyatta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidency_of_Jomo_Kenyatta)



**Presidency of Jomo Kenyatta**  
12 December 1964 – 22 August 1978

**President**

Jomo Kenyatta

**Party**

[KANU](#)

**Seat**

[State House](#)

[Daniel arap Moi](#) →



The **presidency of Jomo Kenyatta** began on 12 December 1964, when [Jomo Kenyatta](#) was named as the [1st president of Kenya](#), and ended on 22 August 1978 upon his death. Jomo Kenyatta, a [KANU](#) member, took office following the formation of [the republic of Kenya](#) after independence following his efforts during the fight for [Independence](#). Four years later, in [the 1969 elections](#), he was the sole candidate and was elected unopposed for a second term in office. In [1974](#), he was re-elected for a third term. Although the post of [President of Kenya](#) was due to be elected at the same time as the National Assembly, [Jomo Kenyatta](#) was the sole candidate and was automatically elected without a vote being held. He died on 22 August 1978 while still in office and was succeeded by [Daniel arap Moi](#).

### **1964 presidential election**

In December 1964, Kenya was officially proclaimed a republic. Kenyatta became its executive president, combining the roles of [head of state](#) and [head of government](#). Although the position for presidency was open for election, Kenyatta was the sole unopposed candidate and was thus proclaimed president without any voting for that position. The bid to have Kenyatta named the unopposed president followed a systematic elimination of opposition candidates during his time as [prime minister](#) of Kenya. The [May 1963 general election](#) pitted Kenyatta's KANU against KADU, the Akamba People's Party, and various independent candidates. KANU was victorious with 83 seats out of 124 in the [House of Representatives](#); a KANU majority government replaced the pre-existing coalition. On 1 June 1963, Kenyatta was sworn in as prime minister of the autonomous Kenyan government.

Immediately following his swearing in as president, Kenyatta faced domestic opposition and in January 1964, sections of the army launched a mutiny in Nairobi, with Kenyatta calling on the British Army to put down the rebellion. Similar armed uprisings had taken place that month in neighboring Uganda and Tanganyika. Kenyatta was outraged and shaken by the mutiny. He publicly rebuked the mutineers, emphasizing the need for law and order in Kenya. To prevent further military unrest, he brought in a review of the salaries of the army, police, and prison staff, leading to pay rises. Kenyatta also wanted to contain parliamentary opposition and at Kenyatta's prompting, in November 1964 KADU officially dissolved and its representatives joined KANU. Two of the senior members of KADU, [Ronald Ngala](#) and [Daniel arap Moi](#), subsequently became some of Kenyatta's most loyal supporters. Kenya therefore became a *de facto* one-party state. As a result, he had succeeded in stifling any possible opposition and scared away any candidates who might have thought of vying against him.

### **Election process and results**

Since was a *de facto* [one-party state](#) with the [Kenya African National Union](#) being the sole party to participate in the election. 740 KANU candidates stood for the 158 [National Assembly](#) seats, with 88 incumbents (including four ministers) defeated. Voter turnout was 56.5%. Out of 4.6 million registered voters at the time, a total of 2.6 million votes were cast and KANU got 100% of the votes. Following the election, a further 12 members were appointed by President Kenyatta.

Party	Votes	%	Seats	+ / –
<a href="#">Kenya African National Union</a>	2,627,308	100	158	0
Appointed members	–	–	12	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,627,308</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>0</b>
Registered voters/turnout	4,654,465		–	–
Source: Nohlen et al.				

### **Inauguration and cabinet**



**Jomo Kenyatta taking oath of office in 1964**

The inauguration of Jomo Kenyatta as president took place on 12 December 1964. It was staged to coincide exactly with the year Kenya attained independence in 1963. This led to the dedication of 12 December as a national holiday named [Jamuhuri Day](#).

Jomo Kenyatta did not form a new cabinet when he became president. The first cabinet formed by Jomo Kenyatta was in 1963 and it continued in force for the entire term. Notably, Kenyatta was prime minister when he formed his first cabinet and his position changed to president after his swearing in. Another major change was the appointment of [Jaramogi Oginga Odinga](#), who was previously the [Home affairs](#) Minister, as his vice president. The rest of the cabinet was constituted as follows:

<b>The first cabinet of Kenya</b>	
<b>Cabinet position</b>	<b>Cabinet member</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Jomo Kenyatta</b>
<b>Vice president</b>	<a href="#">Jaramogi Oginga Odinga</a>
<b>Justice and Constitutional Affairs</b>	<a href="#">Thomas J. Mboya</a>
<b>Finance and Economic Planning</b>	<a href="#">James S. Gichuru</a>
<b>Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office</b>	<a href="#">Joseph A. Murumbi</a>

<b>Minister of State for Pan African Affairs</b>	Mbiyu Koinange
<b>Health and Housing</b>	Dr. Njoroge Mungai
<b>Education</b>	Joseph D. Otiende
<b>Agriculture</b>	Bruce McKenzie
<b>Local Government</b>	Samuel O. Ayodo
<b>Commerce and Industry</b>	Julius G. Kiano
<b>Works, Communication and Power</b>	Dawson Mwanyumba
<b>Labour and Social Services</b>	Eluid Mwendwa
<b>Natural Resources</b>	Laurence Sagini
<b>Information, Broadcasting and Tourism</b>	Ramogi Achieng Oneko
<b>Lands and Settlement</b>	Jackson H. Angaine

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## Kenya Profile

## Timeline

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13682176>

### A chronology of key events:

**c 3.3 million BC** - Evidence of some of the earliest human tools have been found in Kenya, suggesting that it was the cradle of humanity from which descendants moved out to populate the world.

**600** - Arabs begin settling coastal areas, over the centuries developing trading stations which facilitated contact with the Arab world, Persia and India.

**1895** - Formation of British East African Protectorate.

**1920** - East African Protectorate becomes crown colony of Kenya - administered by a British governor.

## **Mau Mau**

**1944** - Kenyan African Union (KAU) formed to campaign for African independence. First African appointment to legislative council.

**1947** - Jomo Kenyatta becomes KAU leader.

**1952-53** - Secret Kikuyu guerrilla group known as Mau Mau begins violent campaign against white settlers. State of emergency declared, Jomo Kenyatta jailed, KAU banned.

**1956** - Mau Mau rebellion put down.

**1960** - State of emergency ends. Britain announces plans to prepare Kenya for majority African rule. Kenya African national Union (Kanu) formed by Tom Mboya and Oginga Odinga.

## **Independence**

**1961** - Jomo Kenyatta freed from two years of house arrest, assumes presidency of Kanu.

**1963** - Kenya gains independence, with Mr Kenyatta as prime minister.

**1964** - Republic of Kenya formed. Jomo Kenyatta becomes president and Oginga Odinga vice-president.

**1966** - Mr Odinga leaves Kanu after ideological split, forms Kenya People's Union (KPU).

**1969** - Assassination of government minister Tom Mboya sparks ethnic unrest. KPU banned and Mr Odinga arrested. Kanu only party to contest elections.

**1974** - Kenyatta re-elected.

## **Moi era**

**1978** - Kenyatta dies in office, succeeded by Vice-President Daniel arap Moi.

**1982 June** - Kenya officially declared a one-party state by National Assembly.

**1987** - Opposition groups suppressed. International criticism of political arrests and human rights abuses.



**1991** August - Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (Ford) formed by six opposition leaders, including Oginga Odinga. Party outlawed and members arrested. Creditors suspend aid to Kenya amid fierce international condemnation.

**1991** December - Special conference of Kanu agrees to introduce a multi-party-political system.

**1992** - Approximately 2,000 people killed in tribal conflict in the west of the country.

### **Multi-party elections**

**1992** December - President Moi re-elected in multi-party elections. Kanu wins strong majority.

**1994** - Oginga Odinga dies. Opposition groups form coalition - the United National Democratic Alliance - but it is plagued by disagreements.

**1997** December - President Moi wins further term in widely-criticised elections. His main opponents are former vice-president Mwai Kibaki and Raila Odinga, son of Oginga Odinga.

### **Embassy bomb**

**1998** August - Al-Qaeda operatives bomb the US embassy in Nairobi, killing 224 people and injuring thousands.

**2002** July - Some 200 Maasai and Samburu tribespeople accept more than \$7m in compensation from the British Ministry of Defence. The tribespeople had been bereaved or maimed by British Army explosives left on their land over the last 50 years.

**2002** November - Al-Qaeda attack on Israeli-owned hotel near Mombasa kills 10 Kenyans and injures three Israelis. A simultaneous rocket attack on an Israeli airliner fails.

### **Kibaki victory**

**2002** December - Elections. Mwai Kibaki wins a landslide victory, ending Daniel arap Moi's 24-year rule and Kanu's four decades in power.

**2004** October - Kenyan ecologist Wangari Maathai wins the Nobel Peace Prize.

**2005** November-December - Voters reject a proposed new constitution in what is seen as a protest against President Kibaki.

**2007** December - Disputed presidential elections lead to violence in which more than 1,500 die.

The government and opposition come to a power-sharing agreement in February and a cabinet is agreed in April.

### **Constitution approved**

**2010** July - Kenya joins its neighbours in forming a new East African Common Market, intended to integrate the region's economy.

**2010** August - New constitution designed to limit the powers of the president and devolve power to the regions approved in referendum.

**2011** August-September - Somali al-Shabab jihadists raid Kenyan coastal resorts and a refugee camp, targeting foreigners.

### **Troops in Somalia**

**2011** October - Kenyan troops enter Somalia to attack rebels they accuse of being behind several kidnappings of foreigners on Kenyan soil. Kenya suffers several reprisal attacks.

**2012** January - International Criminal Court rules that several prominent Kenyans must stand trial over the 2007 post-election violence.

**2012** March - Oil discovered. President Kibaki hails it as a ''major breakthrough''.

**2012** May - More than 30 people are injured in an attack on a Nairobi shopping centre by al-Shabab.

**2012** August-September - More than 100 people are killed in communal clashes over land and resources Coast Province.

Five people die in riots by Muslim protesters in Mombasa after the shooting of preacher Aboud Rogo Mohammed, accused by the UN of recruiting and funding al-Shabab Islamist fighters in Somalia.

### **Kenyatta wins election**

**2013** March - Uhuru Kenyatta, the son of Kenya's first president, wins presidential election with just over 50% of the vote. A challenge to the results by his main rival, Prime Minister Raila Odinga, is rejected by the Supreme Court.

**2013 June** - The British government says it sincerely regrets the torture of thousands of Kenyans during the suppression of the Mau Mau insurgency in the 1950s and promises £20m in compensation.

**2013 September** - Deputy President William Ruto pleads not guilty at the International Criminal Court to crimes against humanity charges over the 2007 post-election violence.

### **Al-Shabab steps up attacks**

**2013 September** - Somali al-Shabab militants seize the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi and kill more than 60 people, saying they want Kenya's military to pull out of Somalia.

**2014 June** - At 48 people die after al-Shabab militants attack hotels and a police station in Mpeketoni, near the island resort of Lamu.

**2014 December** - Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court drop charges against President Kenyatta over the 2007 post-election violence, citing insufficient evidence.

**2015 April** - Al-Shabab carry out a massacre at Garissa University College in northwest Kenya, killing 148 people.

**2017 February** - Government declares a drought affecting a large part of the country to be a national disaster.

**2017 May** - A new multi-billion-dollar railway line linking Mombasa to the capital Nairobi is opened - the country's biggest infrastructure project since independence.

**2017 August-October** - President Kenyatta is declared winner of the presidential election in August as well as the re-run in October.

**2020 January** - Al-Shabab Somali jihadists attack Camp Simba army base near Lamu, killing three Americans.

**2022 August** - Deputy President William Ruto narrowly wins the presidential election, beating his main rival Raila Odinga.



The massacre of 148 students at Garissa college in 2015 horrified Kenya and prompted criticism of the security forces

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## Quotable QUOTES

<https://www.thoughtco.com/jomo-kenyatta-quotes-44448>



Our children may learn about heroes of the past. Our task is to make ourselves architects of the future.

— Jomo Kenyatta —

AZ QUOTES



"It Africans were left in peace on their own lands, Europeans would have to offer them the benefits of white civilization in real earnest before they could obtain the African labor which they want so much. They would have to offer the African a way of life which was really superior to the one his fathers lived before, and a share in the prosperity given them by their command of science. They would have to let the African choose what parts of European culture could be beneficially transplanted, and how they could be adapted ... The African is conditioned, by cultural and social institutions of centuries, to a freedom of which Europe has little conception, and it is not in his nature to accept serfdom forever."  
«« from the conclusion to his book *Facing Mount Kenya* (1938)

"Europeans assume that, given the right knowledge and ideas, personal relations can be left largely to take care of themselves, and this is perhaps the most fundamental difference in outlook between Africans and Europeans."

"You and I must work together to develop our country, to get education for our children, to have doctors, to build roads, to improve or provide all day-to-day essentials."

"To .. all the dispossessed youth of Africa: for the perpetuation of communion with ancestral spirits through the fight for African freedom, and in the firm faith that the dead, the living, and the unborn will unite to rebuild the destroyed shrines."

"Our children may learn about the heroes of the past. Our task is to make ourselves the architects of the future."

"Where there has been racial hatred, it must be ended. Where there has been tribal animosity, it will be finished. Let us not dwell upon the bitterness of the past. I would rather look to the future, to the good new Kenya, not to the bad old days. If we can create this sense of national direction and identity, we shall have gone a long way to solving our economic problems."

"Many people may think that now there is Uhuru, now I can see the sun of Freedom shining, richness will pour down like manna from Heaven. I tell you there will be nothing from Heaven. We must all work hard, with our hands, to save ourselves from poverty, ignorance, and disease."

"If we respect ourselves and our Uhuru, foreign investment will pour in and we will prosper."

"We do not want to oust the Europeans from this country. But what we demand is to be treated like the white races. If we are to live here in peace and happiness, racial discrimination must be abolished."

"God said this is our land, land in which we flourish as people... we want our cattle to get fat on our land so that our children grow up in prosperity; and we do not want the fat removed to feed others."

[Kindly visit also these Web Links for MORE](#)

<https://www.creatosaurus.io/apps/quotes/authors/jomo-kenyatta-quotes>

<https://www.blackfacts.com/fact/inspirational-jomo-kenyatta-quotes>

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## Jomo Kenyatta

Jomo Kenyatta was born Kamau to parents Moigoi and Wamboi "" his father was the chief of a small agricultural village in Gatundu Division, Kiambu District "" one of five administrative districts in the Central Highlands of British East Africa (now Kenya).

Moigoi died when Kamau was very young and he was, as custom dictated, adopted by his uncle Ngengi to become Kamau wa Ngengi. Ngengi also took over the chiefdom and Moigoi's wife Wamboi.

When his mother died giving birth to a boy, James Moigoi, Kamau moved to live with his grandfather, Kungu Mangana, who was a noted medicine man<sup>2</sup> in the area. Around the age of 10, suffering from an infection, Kamau was taken to the Church of Scotland Mission at Thogoto (about 19 kilometres north of Nairobi), where surgery was successfully carried out on both feet and one leg. Kamau was impressed by his first exposure to Europeans, and determined to join the mission school. He ran away from home to become a resident pupil at the mission, studying amongst other subjects, the Bible, English, mathematics, and carpentry. He paid the school fees by working as a houseboy and cook for a nearby White settler.

### **British East Africa during World War I**

In 1912, having completed his mission school education, Kamau became an apprentice carpenter. The following year he underwent initiation ceremonies (including circumcision). In August 1914 Kamau was baptized at the Church of Scotland mission, initially taking the name John Peter Kamau, but swiftly changing it to Johnson Kamau. He then departed the mission for Nairobi to seek employment.

Initially he worked as an apprentice carpenter on a sisal (an agave used for agricultural twine) farm in Thika, under the tutelage of John Cook, who had been in charge of the building programme at Thogoto. As [World War I](#) progressed, able bodied Kikuyu were forced into work by the British authorities. To avoid this, Kamau moved to Narok, living amongst the Maasai, where he worked as a clerk for an Asian contractor. It was around this time that he took to wearing a traditional beaded belt known as a 'Kenya', a Swahili word which means 'light of Kenya'.

### **Marriage and Family**

In 1919 he met and married his first wife Grace Wahu, according to Kikuyu tradition. When it became apparent that Grace was pregnant, his church elders ordered him to get married before a European magistrate, and undertake the appropriate church rites. (The civil ceremony only took place in November 1922.) On 20 November 1920 Kamau's first son, Peter Muigai, was born. Amongst other jobs he undertook during this period, Kamau served as an interpreter in the Nairobi High Court, and ran a store out of his Dagoretti (an area of Nairobi) home.

In 1922 Kamau adopted the name Jomo (a Kikuyu name meaning 'burning spear') Kenya, and began working for the Nairobi Municipal Council Public Works Department (once again under John Cook who was the Water Superintendent) as a store clerk and water-meter reader. It was also the start of his political career "" the previous year Harry Thuku, a well educated and respected Kikuyu, had formed the East African Association (EAA) to campaign for the return of Kikuyu lands given over to white settlers when the country became the British Crown Colony of Kenya in 1920. Kenya joined the EAA in 1922.

### **A Start in Politics**

In 1925 the EAA disbanded under governmental pressure, but its members came together again as the Kikuyu Central Association (KCA), formed by James Beuttah and Joseph Kangethe. Kenya worked as editor of the KCA's journal between 1924

and 1929, and by 1928 he had become the KCA's general secretary (having given up his job with the municipality to make time).

In May 1928 Kenyatta launched a monthly Kikuyu-language newspaper called Mwigwithania (Kikuyu word meaning 'he who brings together') which was intended to draw all sections of the Kikuyu together. The paper, supported by an Asian-owned printing press, had a mild and unassuming tone, and was tolerated by the British authorities.

### **The Territory's Future in Question**

Worried about the future of its East African territories, the British government began toying with the idea of forming a union of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika. Whilst this was fully supported by white settlers in the Central Highlands, it would be disastrous to Kikuyu interests "" it was believed that the settlers would be given self-government, and that the rights of the Kikuyu would be ignored. In February 1929 Kenyatta was dispatched to London to represent the KCA in discussions with the Colonial Office, but the Secretary of State for the Colonies refused to meet him. Undeterred, Kenyatta wrote several letters to British papers, including The Times.

Kenyatta's letter published in The Times in March 1930 set out five points:

- The security of land tenure and the demand for land taken by European settlers to be returned
- Improved educational opportunities for Black Africans
- The repeal of hut and poll taxes
- Representation for Black Africans in the Legislative Council
- Freedom to pursue traditional customs (such as female genital mutilation)

His letter concluded by saying that a failure to satisfy these points "must inevitably result in a dangerous explosion"" the one thing all sane men wish to avoid".

He returned to Kenya on 24 September 1930, landing at Mombasa. He had failed on his quest for all except one point, the right to develop independent educational institutions for Black Africans.

### **Representing the Kikuyu**

Kenyatta had achieved a goal with the move to independent African educational institutions, although they were still opposed by the colonial authorities. He had also set in motion the pattern for his future opposition to colonialism.

In May 1931 Kenyatta once again left Kenya for London, to represent the KCA before a Parliamentary Commission on the 'Closer Union of East Africa', and once again he was ignored, this time despite the backing of Liberals in the House of Commons.

In the end the British government abandoned its plan for such a union. Kenyatta headed north, to Birmingham, and enrolled at a college for a year. Kenyatta would stay away from Kenya for the next 15 years.

Having completed his course in Birmingham, Kenyatta returned to London and, in June 1932, he testified to the Morris Carter Kenya Land Commission on behalf of Kikuyu land claims "" the report which was not published until 1934, resulted in some of the appropriated territories being returned to the Kikuyu, but in general the 'White



Highlands' policy of the colonial administration was maintained, restricting the Kikuyu to reservations.

### **Study in the Soviet Union**

In August 1932 Kenyatta (who had joined the Communist Party) travelled to Moscow to study economics at the Moscow State University, under the sponsorship of the Caribbean Pan-Africanist George Padmore. His stay came to an end when Padmore fell out of favour with the Soviets. Back in London he met up with other Black nationalists and Pan-Africanists, and even protested against the Italian invasion of Abyssinia in 1936.

### **London**

In 1934 Kenyatta began his studies at University College, London, working on Arthur Ruffell Barlow's English-Kikuyu Dictionary. The following year he transferred to the London School of Economics, to study social anthropology under the renowned Polish anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski. Malinowski was a significant influence in Kenyatta's life "" as world leading ethnographer, and the creator of the social anthropological field known as functionalism (that a culture's ceremonies and rituals have logic and function within the culture). Malinowski steered Kenyatta in his thesis on Kikuyu culture and tradition. Kenyatta published a revised version of his thesis as *Facing Mount Kenya* in 1938.

*Facing Mount Kenya* remains an important (even classic) work for its insights into the traditions of Kikuyu culture, written in a form which proved accessible to readers in the West. Kenyatta's assertion of the strong values inherent in Kikuyu society is not, however, without its controversies "" in particular Kenyatta's firm approval for the practice of female circumcision, which he claimed was so fundamental to Kikuyu culture that to end it, as colonial authorities and missionaries back in Kenya wished to do, would damage the culture as a whole.

### **World War II**

Effectively cut off in Britain from the KCA (which had been banned back in Kenya) by World War II, Kenyatta continued to campaign for Kikuyu rights "" publishing several books and pamphlets, including a study of the Kikuyu language. Kenyatta supported himself, and avoided being conscripted, by working as a farm labourer and lecturing for the Workers' Educational Association. He was even an extra in Alexander Korda film *Sanders of the River* (1943). In May 1942 he married for the second time, to an English governess, Edna Clark. Kenyatta's second son, Peter Magana, was born in August 1942.

### **Pan-Africanism in London and Manchester**

As the war progressed, Kenyatta became involved with a group of anti-colonial and African nationalists from around the African continent and the Diaspora. Dr Hastings Banda, the future president of Malawi, was stranded in London by World War II, and his house became a regular meeting place for Kenyatta, Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana), novelist Peter Abrahams (South African), journalist Isaac Wallace-Johnson (Sierra Leone), Harry Mawaanga Nkubula (Northern Rhodesia), as well as George Padmore and CLR James from the Caribbean. Together they formed the Pan-African Federation.

### **Fifth Pan-African Congress**

WEB Du Bois had organised the first Pan-African Congress held in Paris in 1919 (an earlier congress in London in 1900 did not use the title 'Pan-African'), and further congresses were held in 1921, 1923, and 1927. In London, in October 1945, Padmore and Nkrumah arranged for the fifth (and final) congress to be held in Manchester (they also formally created the Pan-African Federation the following year). Ninety delegates attended, roughly a third from Africa, a third from the West Indies, and a third from British institutions and organisations. WEB Du Bois, at the grand age of 77, was the chair. The congress discussed plans for nationalist movements across the continent of Africa, demanded independence from colonial rule, and ends to racial discrimination, and set the ground work for African unity. It was all but completely ignored by the international press.

### **Return to Kenya**

Kenyatta returned to Kenya in September 1946, abandoning his British wife Edna. Kenyatta married, once more, to Grace Wanjiku (who died in childbirth in 1950), and he took up the post of principal at the Kenya Teachers College in Githunguri.

He was also invited to lead the newly formed Kenya African Union (KAU) of which he became president in 1947. Over the next few years Kenyatta travelled around Kenya giving lectures and campaigning for independence. In September 1951 he married his fourth wife, Ngina Muhoho.

### **Mau Mau Rebellion**

The Kenyan Crown Colony was still dominated by white settler interests, and the dangerous explosion he had predicted in *The Times* in 1930 became a reality -- the Mau Mau Rebellion. Seen as a subversive from his call for independence and support for nationalism, Kenyatta was implicated in the Mau Mau movement by the British authorities, and on 21 October 1952 he was arrested.

The trial, which lasted several months, was a travesty "" witnesses perjured themselves, and the judge was openly hostile to Kenyatta. The trial achieved worldwide publicity; despite the colonial authorities trying to claim it was simply a 'criminal' matter.

On 8 April 1953 Kenyatta was sentenced to seven years for "Managing the Mau Mau, Allegedly

The trial, which lasted several months, was a travesty, witnesses perjured themselves, and the judge was openly hostile to Kenyatta. The trial achieved worldwide publicity; despite the colonial authorities trying to claim it was simply a 'criminal' matter.

On 8 April 1953 Kenyatta was sentenced to seven-years hard labour for "managing the Mau Mau terrorist organization". He spent the next six years at Lokitaung before being moved to 'permanent restriction' at Lodwar (a particularly remote desert army post) on 14 April 1959. The Mau Mau Rebellion had been crushed by the British Army, and the State of Emergency was lifted on 10 November.

### **The Path to the Presidency**

During Kenyatta's incarceration the mantle of nationalist leadership had been taken up by Tom Mboya (a Luo) and Oginga Odinga (a Luo chief). Under their guidance, KAU merged with the Kenya Independent Movement to form a new party, the Kenya African National Union or KANU, on 11 June 1960. The Kenya African Democratic

Union (KADU) was formed in opposition (representing the Maasai, Samburu, Kalenjin, and Turkana).

Kenyatta's 15 year stay away from Kenya had proved beneficial"" he was seen by much of the Black population of Kenya as the one person who was free from the ethnic bias and factional infighting of the new political parties.

Mboya and Odinga arranged for his election as president of KANU in absentia (he was still under house arrest) and campaigned for his release. On 21 August 1961 Kenyatta was finally released, on the condition that he didn't run for public office.

### **Independence for Kenya**

By 1960 the British government had conceded the principle of one man-one vote for Kenya, and in 1962 Kenyatta went to the Lancaster Conference in London to negotiate the terms of Kenya's independence.

In May 1963 KANU won the pre-independence election and formed a provisional government. When independence was achieved on 12 December that year, Kenyatta was prime minister. Exactly one year later, with the proclamation of a republic, Kenyatta became Kenya's first president.

### **Heading to an Effective One-Party State**

Although he initially appealed to all sectors of Kenya's population, appointing members of government from various ethnic groups - he did this more to avoid the development of an ethnically based opposition. But the central core of his government was strongly Kikuyu in makeup. KADU merged with KANU on 10 November 1964, Kenya was now effectively a one-party state with Kenyatta in charge.

Kenyatta also sought to gain the trust of the white settlers of the Central Highlands. He outlined a programme of conciliation, asking them not to flee from the country but to stay and help make it an economic and social success. His slogan for these early years of his presidency was Harambee! - a Swahili word which means 'let's all pull together'.

### **Increasingly Autocratic Approach**

Kenyatta also rejected calls by African socialists to nationalise property, following a pro-Western, capitalist approach instead. Amongst those alienated by his policies was his first vice-president Oginga Odinga. But Odinga, and the rest, soon discovered that under Kenyatta's smooth façade was a politician of stern resolve. He brooked no opposition, and over the years several of his critics died under mysterious circumstances, and a few of his political opponents were arrested and detained without trial. Increasingly isolated, Odinga left KANU to form a left-wing opposition party, the Kenya People's Union or KPU, in 1966. But by 1969 the party had been outlawed and Odinga and several other prominent members were in detention.

### **Assassination of Tom Mboya**

1969 also saw the assassination of Tom Mboya, a Luo ally of Kenyatta's, who some believed was being groomed as his successor. His murder, on 5 July, sent shock waves through the nation and led to tension and violence between the Luo and Kikuyu. Kenyatta's position was, however, unaffected, and he was re-elected for a second presidential term at the end of the year.

By 1974, riding on a decade of high economic growth based on exports of cash crops and financial aid from the West, Kenyatta won a third presidential term (he was,

however, the only candidate). But the cracks were starting to appear. Kenyatta's family and political friends had gained considerable wealth at the expense of the average Kenyan. And the Kikuyu were openly acting as elite, especially a small clique known as the Kiambu Mafia who had greatly benefited from land redistribution in the early days of Kenyatta's presidency.

Since 1967, Kenyatta's vice president had been Daniel arap Moi, a Kalenjin (the collective name for several small ethnic groups who were mainly settled in the Rift Valley). When Kenyatta suffered his second heart attack in 1977 (his first was in 1966) the Kiambu Mafia became worried: according to the constitution when the president died the vice-president would automatically take over. They however, wanted the presidency to remain in Kikuyu hands. It is to Kenyatta's merit that he safeguarded Moi's position when a constitutional drafting group attempted to have this rule changed.

### **Kenyatta's Legacy**

Jomo Kenyatta died in his sleep on 22 August 1978. Daniel arap Moi took office as Kenya's second president, and pledged to continue Kenyatta's good work - under a system he called *Nyoyo*, a Swahili word for 'footsteps'.

Kenyatta's legacy, corruption notwithstanding, was a country which had been stable both politically and economically. Kenyatta had also maintained a friendly relationship with the West, despite his treatment by the British as a suspected Mau Mau leader.

Along with his written testament to the culture and traditions of the Kikuyu, *Facing Mount Kenya*, Kenyatta published, in 1968, a memoir of reminiscences and speeches"" *Suffering Without Bitterness*.

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In October 1951 Kenyatta selected colors for the KAU flag:  
green for the land, black for the skin of the people, and  
red for the blood of liberty.



Tanganyikan children with signs demanding Kenyatta's release



Among those lobbying for Kenyatta's release from indefinite detention were Tanganyika's Julius Nyerere and Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah.





Kenyatta initially agreed to merge Kenya with Tanganyika, Uganda and Zanzibar to form an East African Federation.


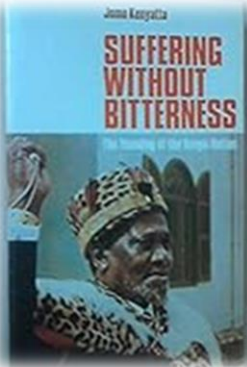


The presidential standard of Jomo Kenyatta, adopted in 1970.



Kenyatta's Mausoleum in Nairobi

## Bibliography

Year of publication	Title	Publisher
1938	 <p><i>Facing Mount Kenya</i></p>	Secker and Warburg
1944	<i>My People of Kikuyu and the Life of Chief Wangombe</i>	United Society for Christian Literature
1944?	<i>Kenya: The Land of Conflict</i>	Panaf Service
1968	 <p><i>Suffering Without Bitterness</i></p>	East African Publishing House
1971	<i>The Challenge of Uhuru: The Progress of Kenya, 1968 to 1970</i>	East African Publishing House

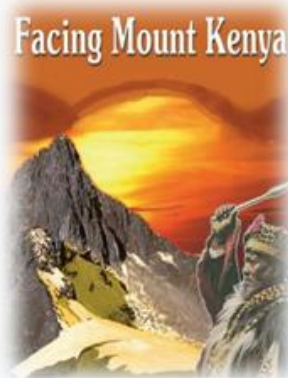
# *Facing Mount Kenya*

By

Jomo Kenyatta

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facing\\_Mount\\_Kenya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facing_Mount_Kenya)

## *Facing Mount Kenya*



<b>Author</b>	<a href="#">Jomo Kenyatta</a>
<b>Language</b>	<a href="#">English</a>
<b>Genre</b>	<a href="#">Nonfiction</a> , <a href="#">anthropology</a>
<b>Publisher</b>	<a href="#">Secker and Warburg</a> (London)
<b>Publication date</b>	1938
<b>Publication place</b>	<a href="#">Kenya</a>
<b>Media type</b>	Print ( <a href="#">Paperback</a> )
<b>Pages</b>	339

*Facing Mount Kenya*, first published in 1938, is a monograph on the life and customs of the Gikuyu people of central Kenya prior to their contact with Europeans. It is unique in anthropological literature for it gives an account of the social institutions and religious rites of an African people, permeated by the emotions that give to customs and observances their meaning. It is characterised by both insight and a tinge of romanticism. The author, proud of his African blood and ways of thought, takes the reader through a thorough and clear picture of Gikuyu life and customs, painting an almost utopian picture of their social norms and the sophisticated codes by which all aspects of the society were governed. This book is one of a kind, capturing and documenting traditions fast disappearing. It is therefore a must-read for all who want to learn about African culture.

*Facing Mount Kenya*, first published in 1938, is an [anthropological](#) study of the [Kikuyu](#) people of Central [Kenya](#). It was written by native Kikuyu and future Kenyan president [Jomo Kenyatta](#). Kenyatta writes in this text, "The cultural and historical traditions of the Gikuyu people have been verbally handed down from generation to generation. As a Gikuyu myself, I have carried them in my head for many years, since people who have no written records to rely on learn to make a retentive memory do the work of libraries."

The book's introduction was written by [anthropologist Bronisław Malinowski](#), who mentored Kenyatta while both were at the [London School of Economics](#). Malinowski wrote, 'As a first-hand account of a representative African culture, as an invaluable document in the principles underlying culture-contact and change and as a personal statement of the new outlook of a progressive African, this book will rank as a pioneering achievement of outstanding merit.'

The book was banned in [Ireland](#).

### **Book sections**

- Tribal Origin and Kinship System
- The Gikuyu System of Land Tenure
- Economic Life
- Industries
- System of Education
- Initiation of Boys and Girls
- Sex Life among Young People
- Marriage System
- The Gikuyu System of Government
- The Agikuyu belief system.
- Religion and Ancestor Worship
- The New Religion in Eastern Africa
- Magical and Medical Practices
- Conclusion



Jomo Kenyatta's *Facing Mount Kenya* and its Rival  
Ethnographies: The Kikuyu in the Mirror of  
Colonial Anthropology

<https://www.berose.fr/article2353.html?lang=fr>

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2021

POUR CITER CET ARTICLE

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*Facing Mount Kenya : The Tribal Life of the Gikuyu* (1938) by Jomo Kenyatta was the first academic anthropological monograph to be written by an African about his people. [1] It has led a tumultuous existence, being ignored, disparaged and celebrated in turn. During previous research into the remarkable history of this work, it became clear that other texts and their authors were engaged in relations of opposition or association with it, in particular during its production and its initial reception from the 1930s until the period following the Second World War (Peatrik 2014). These somewhat disparate writings form an indisputable part of *Facing Mount Kenya's* trajectory and essentially derive their existence from their implicit or explicit position relative to Kenyatta's work, insofar as their authors clashed, sometimes violently, over the legitimate representation or anthropological truth of the Kikuyu. In turn, these competing versions affected *Facing Mount Kenya's* own status and successive existences. This article seeks to unravel these interwoven influences and to reveal the hidden or forgotten story of a major work in the history of anthropology.

Many of these texts and their authors are little known today, except of course by the historians of Kenya who have preserved them from oblivion. We will focus on the works of three authors in particular: Parmenas Mockerie (*An African speaks for his People*, 1934), Kenyatta himself (*My People of Kikuyu and the Life of Chief Wangombe*, 1942 ; *Kenya : the Land of Conflict*, 1945), and Louis Leakey (*The Southern Kikuyu before 1903*, 1939ms, 1977).



An initial comment is necessary. These texts constitute an array of heterogeneous sources that were grouped together in response to the Mau Mau anti-colonial insurgency which began among the Kikuyu in 1952, almost fifteen years after the initial publication of *Facing Mount Kenya*, and led to Kenya's independence in 1963. Looking back across this broad chronology, these works can retrospectively be seen to intersect in a variety of ways that have been the subject of retrospective scholarly interpretations, in particular by political scientists and historians (Clark 1989, Berman & Lonsdale 1991) seeking to trace the origins of the political thought espoused by the independence movement's activists and leaders. Kenyatta, a student of Malinowski and 'detrified' Kikuyu in the eyes of some, became the first president of the Kenyan Republic in 1964, while Leakey, the 'white Kikuyu', opposed the Mau Mau and Kenyan independence before becoming the renowned palaeontologist that we know today. These two protagonists squared up to each other through their respective works, with the resulting intertextuality pointing to a tension between anthropology and politics rarely seen in the colonial situation.

While such retrospective and retroactive interpretations can be instructive, they may also obstruct our access to the authors' initial intentions, conceptual frameworks and analytical processes, as well as their approaches to writing and recording. And yet these reveal a great deal about the anthropological knowledge formed during this period before both the widespread adoption of academic anthropology and the decolonizations of the 1960s. In particular, the anthropological quality of *Facing Mount Kenya*, too often seen as falling victim to functionalist idealization, emerges more clearly when such an approach is adopted. Here, these texts will be considered for what they say or reveal about ethnologists in the colonial situation and the anthropology produced during these years.

A point of method should first be explained. The trajectory of *Facing Mount Kenya* can be broken down into three easily identifiable stages: firstly, the completion of a master's degree in anthropology by Johnstone Kenyatta - a Kikuyu former municipal employee, sent to London by a tribal association (the Kikuyu Central Association, or KCA) to protect its people's land interests. Written at the London School of Economics under the direction of B. Malinowski, Kenyatta's thesis did not attract much interest when first published. The second stage, that

of fame, came much later, in direct connection with the decolonization crisis. As author and as leader of the independence movement, Jomo the 'Burning Spear' became world famous and *Facing Mount Kenya* an unprecedented success, coinciding as it did with the growing popularity of anthropology which was entering something of a golden age. From the 1990s onwards, *Facing Mount Kenya* took on its third (but by no means last) life when, through a confused association with the excessive hegemony of the Kikuyu in Kenya, it became the book of national discord. This, in short, is the strange fate of this master's thesis written in the 1930s by a British colonial subject essentially practising 'anthropology (almost) at home'.

This article examines these ghostly doubles of *Facing Mount Kenya* from a synchronic perspective, during a period of time interrupted by the Mau Mau crisis - a point of historical rupture and source of interpretative interference that must be addressed. We will focus here on the production conditions of these texts, on their authors as individuals, and on the dissemination and reception of their works. But, beyond this, we must also seek an understanding of their respective positions and interlinkages. How are we to address this intertextuality, which does not yet seem to have been accounted for by the sociology of literature (Sapiro 2014)?

Vincent Debaene's *L'Adieu au voyage* (2010), and the dual register of writing he identifies among French ethnologists in the 1930s, starting with Marcel Griaule (*Les Flambeurs d'homme* 1934) and Michel Leiris (*L'Afrique fantôme* 1934) although there have been many others, offers an encouraging path forward. Many ethnologists have produced two versions of their own surveys - one governed by the criteria of objectivity and thoroughness, the other by a desire to testify to a lived experience with an indigenous people and to convey the atmosphere of their society - corresponding to two registers that have gradually drifted apart : the scientific and the literary. The ghostly 'doubles' of *Facing Mount Kenya* thus reveal the Kikuyu reflected in the mirror of colonial anthropology, and in the mirrors of these competing versions. While not all these doubles are of exactly the type identified by Debaene, his method of comparing texts that differ in nature but describe the same thing provides us with a useful entry point into our subject.

Finally, it is important to state the underlying reason for this interest in *Facing Mount Kenya*. As I conducted research among the distant cousins of the Kikuyu,

the Meru of Kenya (Peatrik 1999, 2019), I realized that they occupied an ethnographic void - just like, as I later realized, other peoples in Kenya. This led to a desire to understand why the societies and peoples of these regions had been so little studied. In particular, their distinct political institutions, based on generational classes, had been misunderstood, distorted, or only understood too late. What, then, were we to make of *Facing Mount Kenya*, which protruded like some incongruous inselberg from this ethnographic desert? In the context of settler colonialism, what was the nature of the lasting confusion into which anthropology, as operator of knowledge, had fallen?

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## KENYA VISION: 2030

<https://vision2030.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Kenya-Vision-2030-Sector-Progress-Project-Updates-June-2018.pdf>

### CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Delivered by:

**Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta**

**[S/o Jomo Kenyatta]**

**President of KENYA (3 Apr 2013 – 13 Sep 2022)**

In 2002, the NARC Government came into power under the leadership of President Mwai Kibaki and scanned the state of the economy relative to the country's aspirations at independence which were eradicating poverty, ignorance and disease. The scan revealed that the country had not made much progress in delivering on the aspirations. Consequently, the Government formed the National Economic and Social Council (NESC), an advisory organization to provide independent economic and social advice on the management of the economy. NESC was tasked to review and advice on what could have gone wrong and come up with correction mechanisms in the shortest time possible. The challenge identified was the lack of a long-term national development blueprint or guiding framework for the realization of our aspirations. NESC formulated the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (ERS), which

laid the foundation for Vision 2030 as a long-term national plan that would be implemented through 5, medium term plans and 25 annual budgets. The Vision 2030 blueprint would deliver a “newly industrializing, upper middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030 in a clean and secure environment”.

The Vision 2030 Delivery Board was formed to serve as the custodian of the Vision and ensure its delivery across successive administrations. Sessional Paper No. 10 of 2012 on Kenya Vision 2030 was passed in Parliament to insulate the implementation of the Vision until 2030. The original 5 years (2002 - 2007) of NESC laid a solid foundation and on 10th June 2008, Vision 2030 was launched. This booklet shows the quantitative measure of progress on the implementation of projects and their impact to the country and transformation of lives of Kenyans. With 12 years to go, and at Medium Term Plan three (MTP III), we are excited and appreciate that much has been achieved under Vision 2030. We have seen significant growth of our economy from a GDP of Ksh1.3 trillion in 2002 to Ksh7.9 trillion in 2017 and GDP per capital of Ksh27,000 to Ksh166,000. To ensure that this growth is inclusive and translates into the desired transformation of quality of life, the Jubilee Government, under President Uhuru Kenyatta, has envisioned to anchor the achieved growth in the lives of Kenyans by applying the 80/20 rule, focusing on the Big Four to deliver the desired outcomes. This growth will be distributed to all through universal health care, affordable housing, food security and manufacturing jobs for our youth to ensure inclusivity and that no one is left behind. The focus on the Big Four anchors government spending on the economy giving it the opportunity to quickly expand and utilize the capacity that has been created by the Enablers (Infrastructure) on the social and economic front and by a strengthened governance structure. We applaud all the 3 arms of Government: the Executive, the Judiciary and Legislature for putting greater focus on governance issues, holding people to account and thus making the cost and price of corruption high. This will help lay a solid foundation to evolve a national

value system that overtime should help the country overcome vices of plunder and diversion of public resources for private use at the expense of national development. We celebrate the statesmanship shown by His Excellency the President and the Leader of Opposition in bringing Kenyans together to evolve our politics to be issue-based and people centered. This will enable us to overcome our past and heal the nation that has been bruised by divisive politics, negative ethnicity, polarization in society and the politics of personality. This nationalistic spirit of building cohesion among Kenyans and protecting national resources gives us hope that we will realize the aspirations of Vision 2030 ahead of time. To deliver on this ambitious process of national transformation will require a fundamental shift from business as usual to business unusual. We appeal to the individual farmer, teacher, public servant, business person and others to rise up and be globally competitive. That way we will bequeath our children and future generations a globally competitive and prosperous nation with a high quality of life by 2030.

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## President of Kenya

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President\\_of\\_Kenya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Kenya)

The **president of the Republic of Kenya** (Swahili: Rais wa Jamhuri ya Kenya) is the head of state and head of government of the Republic of Kenya. The president is also the head of the executive branch of the Government of Kenya and is the commander-in-chief of the Kenya Defence Forces. The country's current president is William Ruto since 13 September 2022.



## President of the Republic of Kenya

*Rais wa Jamhuri ya Kenya*



**Incumbent**

**William Ruto**

since 13 September 2022

Government of Kenya

### Style

- Mr President
- (informal)
- His Excellency
- (formal, diplomatic)

### Type

- Head of state
- Head of government
- Executive president

### Residence

State House

### Seat

Nairobi

### Appointer

Direct popular vote or via succession from deputy presidency

### Term length

Five years, renewable once

### Constituting instrument

Constitution of Kenya

### Precursor

Governor-General of Kenya  
Queen of Kenya

### Inaugural holder

Jomo Kenyatta

### Formation

12 December 1964; 59 years ago

### Deputy

Deputy President of Kenya

### Salary

KSh. 886,250 (basic)  
KSh. 1,443,750 (gross)  
monthly<sup>[1]</sup>

### Website

[www.president.go.ke](http://www.president.go.ke)

## History

On 12 December 1964, the Republic of Kenya was proclaimed, and [Jomo Kenyatta](#) became Kenya's first president. Kenya has had a total of five presidents since establishment, in successive order: [Jomo Kenyatta](#), [Daniel arap Moi](#), [Mwai Kibaki](#), [Uhuru Kenyatta](#), and the incumbent, [William Ruto](#), who was inaugurated on 13 September 2022. Moi remains the country's longest serving president, having served for a total of 24 years.

## Qualifications and election to office

According to the current [Constitution](#), if a person wishes to be elected as president, the following qualifications must be met:

1. Should be a Kenyan citizen by birth;
2. Should be qualified for election as a [Member of Parliament](#);
3. Should have been nominated by a political party to stand as its candidate for the presidency, or they may stand as an independent candidate; and
4. The person should have been nominated by more than two thousand voters from each of a majority of the country's 47 [counties](#).

A candidate will be disqualified to run for presidency if they have allegiance to a foreign state or is working for the government in any capacity as a public officer. Being a public officer is not applicable to the incumbent president if running for a second term.

The president is elected by popular vote in the general election held in the month of August every five years. For a presidential candidate to be declared the winner, they must have:

1. More than half of the total votes cast in the election; and
2. At least 25% of the votes cast in each of more than half of the 47 counties in the country.

The official residence of the president of Kenya is [State House, Nairobi](#).

The wife of the president is referred to as the [first lady of Kenya](#).

## Term of office

A president is eligible for two consecutive terms of five years each, starting from the date the president is sworn in.

## Roles and responsibilities

The following is a summary of the roles of the president of Kenya as provided in the [Constitution of Kenya](#):

- Is the country's head of state and government.

- Exercises the country's executive authority.
- Is the [commander-in-chief](#) of the country's military, the [Kenya Defence Forces](#).
- Is the chairperson of the country's National Security Council.
- Is a symbol of national unity.

The responsibilities of the president are summarised as follows:

- Is responsible for addressing each newly elected [Parliament](#) and report once to special parliamentary seating concerning issues of national value and governance.
- Holds nominating and appointing authority, with Parliament's approval, over the country's [cabinet secretaries](#), [attorney-general](#), principal secretaries, diplomatic and consular representatives and any other public officer over whom the Constitution grants said authority.
- Is the chairperson of [Cabinet](#) meetings and oversees the running of operations in various ministries and government departments.<sup>[6]</sup>
- The president may also undertake any other executive functions as permitted by the Constitution.
- The president also exercises the [power of mercy](#), whereupon the president may pardon a person convicted of an offence.

Additionally, a person serving as president has [legal immunity](#), with the exception of crimes under treaties to which Kenya is party with provisions that prohibit such immunity.

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